



FACT SHEET: Protect Children Through Safe Gun Ownership Act

Endorsing organizations: *American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Brady: United Against Gun Violence, Everytown for Gun Safety, Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence, March For Our Lives, National Education Association (NEA) and Sandy Hook Promise.*

Background:

Unsecured firearms are a danger to minors of all ages. As many as [4.6 million children](#) live in homes with at least one loaded and unsecured firearm. Children finding easy access to firearms contribute to preventable tragedies such as school shootings, youth suicides, and unintentional shooting deaths among children.

We must protect children from gun violence. Responsible gun ownership should mean that children do not have access to firearms so that they cannot harm themselves or others around them. Parents or other guardians wishing to teach their children how to use guns should do so in a safe and supervised environment.

The **Protect Children Through Safe Gun Ownership Act** is a simple and straightforward proposal that adheres to these commonsense principles. It would reduce gun violence among children by limiting the transfer or unsupervised use of guns by minors, requiring that firearms be stored in a secured fashion when not in use and providing grants to school districts to educate parents and children on the need to secure firearms and age-appropriate best practices on how to do so.

Protect Children Through Safe Gun Ownership Act Provisions:

Limitation on transfer and use of guns by minors

- The bill prevents any parent or guardian from providing consent to allow a minor to possess or use a gun unless they have actual knowledge that the juvenile will be in the presence and under the active supervision of the parent or another adult.
- The parent or other adult must not be prohibited by Federal, State, local law from possessing a firearm.

Secure gun storage requirement

- The bill promotes responsible gun ownership by requiring firearms to be secured in a gun storage or safety device.

- Allows victims or their family to sue if there is death or physical harm resulting from a firearm not being properly stored.
- Imposes a \$1,000 civil penalty for the first violation and \$5,000 civil penalty for the second and subsequent violations of this provision.

Grant program for gun safety and safe storage education

- The bill creates a Department of Education grant program for eligible school districts to conduct information sessions on gun safety and provides parents with educational materials on gun safety, including the importance of secure gun storage and best practices on how to keep guns secure from children.
- The Secretary of Education is required to issue guidance on best practices for keeping children secure from guns and ways that school districts can implement age-appropriate education on gun safety for parents.